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maribeth dwyer • news editor

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WILDLIFE OF NORTHERN PRAIRIE FEATURED IN AUDUBON FILM

MISSOULA:

Naturalist Allen J. King will screen and narrate his film, "Song of the Northern Prairie," an exploration of the wildlife and untamed lands of our northern central states, at the University Center Ballroom at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The free screening is part of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series, sponsored by ASUM Programming.

King concentrates on North Dakota, which contains most of the wildlife found in the prairie habitat. His film captures the spring activity of the animals: birds migrating, the calving of bison and pronghorn antelope, and the hunting activities of such predators as the black-footed ferret, coyote, and golden eagle, who find their prey more easily as the winter chill thaws.

In contrast to arid flatlands of the prairie are the wetlands, which are a bustling center of life. The marshes and other wetlands serve as breeding grounds for many bird species, including coots, pelicans, black cormorants, and various kinds of ducks. King concentrates on a colony of nesting grebes, birds which leave the nest early to ride piggy-back aboard their parents until they learn to soar on their own wings. Their antics are a delightful climax to this "Song of the Northern Prairie."

(over)

"WILDLIFE" -- add one

When not filming or lecturing, King is a graduate student of wildlife biology at Michigan State University.

The National Audubon Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, has over 400,000 members, 10 regional offices, and some 440 chapters nationwide. The Audubon Wildlife Films program is one of the Society's many education and conservation projects across the country.

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